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*Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who is facing impeachment by parliament, has announced his resignation. Mr Musharraf seized power in a coup almost nine years ago. Charles Haviland reports from Islamabad:*

Looking calm the **embattled** president went on national television and announced that, after consulting his allies and advisors, he had decided to resign. Mr Musharraf said his **appeals for reconciliation** with his opponents had **fallen on deaf ears**. He said the **impeachment** process he had been facing would have plunged the country into uncertainty.

The former general may now have **relinquished** the political power he **clung onto** for so long but the tone of his speech was **anything but contrite**. He said he had believed it was his destiny to save Pakistan, helped by God, and that he had prevented it from being declared a terrorist state.

**In a clear reference to** the leaders of the big political parties who've opposed him so **implacably**, Mr Musharraf said there were some elements who considered themselves more important than Pakistan and who were trying to betray the country. He said their allegations against him were false and **went into elaborate detail** about what he said were the social, economic and infrastructural improvements made during his rule.

Charles Haviland, BBC News, Islamabad

## Vocabulary and definitions

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>embattled</b>                  | under attack (because his continuing rule has caused a lot of controversy)  |
| <b>appeals for reconciliation</b> | strong requests to overcome differences and start working together  |
| <b>fallen on deaf ears</b>        | been ignored  |
| <b>impeachment</b>                | formally charging a public official, especially a president, with crimes or other serious offences (in order to remove them from public office) |
| <b>relinquished</b>               | given up  |
| <b>clung onto</b>                 | tried very hard to keep   |
| <b>anything but contrite</b>      | not showing any regret or guilt (for the bad things that some people believe he has done)   |
| <b>In a clear reference to</b>    | obviously talking about   |
| <b>implacably</b>                 | showing strong opinions that are impossible to change   |
| <b>went into elaborate detail</b> | talked very specifically, including all the particulars   |

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